

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT  
FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF MICHIGAN

Case: 2:21-cv-12432

Judge: Michelson, Laurie J.

MJ: Stafford, Elizabeth A.

Filed: 10-14-2021

CMP BETHEA v. GENERAL MOTORS  
COMPANY GM TECH CENTER ET AL

Robert Eugene Bethea

*(Write the full name of each plaintiff who is filing this complaint. If the names of all the plaintiffs cannot fit in the space above, please write "see attached" in the space and attach an additional page with the full list of names.)*

v.

General Motors Company GM Tech Center

United Autoworkers Local # 160

Aramark Services

*(Write the full name of each defendant who is being sued. If the names of all the defendants cannot fit in the space above, please write "see attached" in the space and attach an additional page with the full list of names.)*

Case No. (TT)

*(to be filled in by the Clerk's Office)*

Jury Trial: ☒ Yes ☐ No  
*(check one)*

**Complaint for Employment Discrimination**

**I. The Parties to This Complaint**

**A. The Plaintiff(s)**

Provide the information below for each plaintiff named in the complaint. Attach additional pages if needed.

Name	<u>Robert Eugene Bethea</u>
Street Address	<u>59 Diehl Drive</u>
City and County	<u>Mount Clemens</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>MI 48043</u>
Telephone Number	<u>586-362-0297</u>
E-mail Address	<u>24beancity@gmail.com</u>

**B. The Defendant(s)**

Provide the information below for each defendant named in the complaint, whether the defendant is an individual, a government agency, an organization, or a corporation. For an individual defendant, include the person's job or title (if known). Attach additional pages if needed.

Defendant No. 1

Name	<u>General Motors Company GM Tech Center</u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u>GM Tech Center Rd</u>
City and County	<u>Warren , Macomb</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>MI 48092</u>
Telephone Number	<u>(313) 556-5000</u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u></u>

Defendant No. 2

Name	<u>United Autoworkers Local # 160</u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u>28504 Lorna Ave</u>
City and County	<u>Warren Macomb</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>MI 48092</u>
Telephone Number	<u>(586) 751-4474</u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u></u>

## Defendant No. 3

Name	<u>Aramark Services</u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u>GM Tech Center Road</u>
City and County	<u>Warren Macomb</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>MI 48902</u>
Telephone Number	<u>(313) 556-5000</u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u></u>

## Defendant No. 4

Name	<u></u>
Job or Title (if known)	<u></u>
Street Address	<u></u>
City and County	<u></u>
State and Zip Code	<u></u>
Telephone Number	<u></u>
E-mail Address (if known)	<u></u>

**C. Place of Employment**

The address at which I sought employment or was employed by the defendant(s) is:

Name	<u>GM Tech Center</u>
Street Address	<u>GM Tech Center Road</u>
City and County	<u>Warren Macomb</u>
State and Zip Code	<u>MI 48092</u>
Telephone Number	<u>313-556-5000</u>

## II. Basis for Jurisdiction

This action is brought for discrimination in employment pursuant to *(check all that apply)*:



Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 2000e to 2000e-17 (race, color, gender, religion, national origin).

*(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under Title VII, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)*



Age Discrimination in Employment Act of 1967, as codified, 29 U.S.C. §§ 621 to 634.

*(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Age Discrimination in Employment Act, you must first file a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)*



Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990, as codified, 42 U.S.C. §§ 12112 to 12117.

*(Note: In order to bring suit in federal district court under the Americans with Disabilities Act, you must first obtain a Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission.)*



Other federal law *(specify the federal law)*:



Relevant state law *(specify, if known)*:



Relevant city or county law *(specify, if known)*:

### III. Statement of Claim

Write a short and plain statement of the claim. Do not make legal arguments. State as briefly as possible the facts showing that each plaintiff is entitled to the damages or other relief sought. State how each defendant was involved and what each defendant did that caused the plaintiff harm or violated the plaintiff's rights, including the dates and places of that involvement or conduct. If more than one claim is asserted, number each claim and write a short and plain statement of each claim in a separate paragraph. Attach additional pages if needed.

A. The discriminatory conduct of which I complain in this action includes (*check all that apply*):

- ☐ Failure to hire me.
- ☒ Termination of my employment.
- ☒ Failure to promote me.
- ☐ Failure to accommodate my disability.
- ☒ Unequal terms and conditions of my employment.
- ☒ Retaliation.
- ☐ Other acts (*specify*):

*(Note: Only those grounds raised in the charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission can be considered by the federal district court under the federal employment discrimination statutes.)*

B. It is my best recollection that the alleged discriminatory acts occurred on date(s) 5/1/2019 through 6/02/2020

C. I believe that defendant(s) (*check one*):

- ☒ is/are still committing these acts against me.
- ☐ is/are not still committing these acts against me.

D. Defendant(s) discriminated against me based on my (*check all that apply and explain*):

- ☒ race Hostile activity and environment by employees, company
- ☒ color Hostile activity and environment by employees, company
- ☐ gender/sex \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ religion \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ national origin \_\_\_\_\_
- ☐ age. My year of birth is \_\_\_\_\_. (*Give your year of birth only if you are asserting a claim of age discrimination.*)
- ☐ disability or perceived disability (*specify disability*) \_\_\_\_\_

E. The facts of my case are as follows. Attach additional pages if needed.

Harassment and Discriminatory activity began in May of 2019. I campaigned for Union President for UAW Local #160. I experienced harassment and discrimination at the hands of the Union, Union leadership, GM Labor relations leader Belinda O'Neil, team leaders and my supervisor and co-workers. I was the victim of racial discrimination because the Union did not want an African-American president. Union Leadership acted in support of the discriminatory behavior and did not take action to stop the behavior, discrimination, or harassment. For over a year, the discrimination and harassment continued through words, actions, and retaliation against me. I was placed in dangerous work situations, I was denied promotions and similar opportunities, and I was subject to racially charged verbal abuse, and blatant harassing and discriminatory conduct. Ultimately, I was unfairly and wrongfully discharged from my position in June of 2020, in the middle of the Covid 19 pandemic.

In March of 2020, the problems escalated. During the Covid 19 pandemic, the harassment and discrimination toward me increased. Employees and management alike treated and referred to the virus as a "black disease". Employees were told that the virus was following the black population in the company and community. Management and the union interjected race into the equation and did nothing to address or stop the racist words and actions. I received no support or representation from the Union during this time and the Union's attitude and actions only worsened the discrimination I suffered.

Four of the major instigators in this discriminatory activity were team members/leaders Phil Jackson and Scott Bednarchik, GM Labor relations leader Belinda O'Neil, as well as my supervisor Rocco Varacalli, an Aramark services employee. Each of the individuals made verbal, racist comments and failed to respond to racist and hostile threats and actions against me during this timeframe. In short, the four individuals were direct players in the hostile and racist environment I endured for over a year. Additionally, Aramark Services, a contractor with the facility providing general facility maintenance, and its employees such as Rocco Varacalli, were consistently supporting and directly practicing the hostile, harassing, and discriminatory actions against me.

I have attached the EEOC Right to Sue Letter I received.

*(Note: As additional support for the facts of your claim, you may attach to this complaint a copy of your charge filed with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, or the charge filed with the relevant state or city human rights division.)*

#### IV. Exhaustion of Federal Administrative Remedies

A. It is my best recollection that I filed a charge with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission or my Equal Employment Opportunity counselor regarding the defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct on *(date)*  
1/20/2021

B. The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission *(check one)*:

- ☐ has not issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter.  
☒ issued a Notice of Right to Sue letter, which I received on *(date)*

7/15/2021

*(Note: Attach a copy of the Notice of Right to Sue letter from the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission to this complaint.)*

C. Only litigants alleging age discrimination must answer this question.

Since filing my charge of age discrimination with the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission regarding the defendant's alleged discriminatory conduct *(check one)*:

- ☐ 60 days or more have elapsed.  
☐ less than 60 days have elapsed.

#### V. Relief

State briefly and precisely what damages or other relief the plaintiff asks the court to order. Do not make legal arguments. Include any basis for claiming that the wrongs alleged are continuing at the present time. Include the amounts of any actual damages claimed for the acts alleged and the basis for these amounts. Include any punitive or exemplary damages claimed, the amounts, and the reasons you claim you are entitled to actual or punitive money damages. Attach additional pages if needed.

I have suffered economic damages for lost wages in the amount of \$263,000 lost wages based on 2019 earnings, \$750,000 lost wages earned for five years (working until 70 years of age all calculated based on 2019 W-2 earnings), \$1,402 for legal costs = \$1,014,402 + 2,028,804 punitive damages (2X lost wages) = \$3,043,206 total damages.

**VI. Certification and Closing**

Under Federal Rule of Civil Procedure 11, by signing below, I certify to the best of my knowledge, information, and belief that this complaint: (1) is not being presented for an improper purpose, such as to harass, cause unnecessary delay, or needlessly increase the cost of litigation; (2) is supported by existing law or by a nonfrivolous argument for extending, modifying, or reversing existing law; (3) the factual contentions have evidentiary support or, if specifically so identified, will likely have evidentiary support after a reasonable opportunity for further investigation or discovery; and (4) the complaint otherwise complies with the requirements of Rule 11.

**A. For Parties Without an Attorney**

I agree to provide the Clerk's Office with any changes to my address where case-related papers may be served. I understand that my failure to keep a current address on file with the Clerk's Office may result in the dismissal of my case.

Date of signing: October 14, 2021.

Signature of Plaintiff



Printed Name of Plaintiff Robert E. Bethea



**Additional Information:**

**DISMISSAL AND NOTICE OF RIGHTS**

To: **Robert E. Bethea**  
**59 Diehl Drive**  
**Mount Clemens, MI 48043**

From: **Detroit Field Office**  
**477 Michigan Avenue**  
**Room 865**  
**Detroit, MI 48226**



On behalf of person(s) aggrieved whose identity is  
**CONFIDENTIAL (29 CFR §1601.7(a))**

EEOC Charge No.

EEOC Representative

Telephone No.

**471-2021-00144**

**Colleen Flennoy,**  
**Investigator**

**(313) 226-2361****THE EEOC IS CLOSING ITS FILE ON THIS CHARGE FOR THE FOLLOWING REASON:**

The facts alleged in the charge fail to state a claim under any of the statutes enforced by the EEOC.



Your allegations did not involve a disability as defined by the Americans With Disabilities Act.



The Respondent employs less than the required number of employees or is not otherwise covered by the statutes.



Your charge was not timely filed with EEOC; in other words, you waited too long after the date(s) of the alleged discrimination to file your charge.



The EEOC issues the following determination: The EEOC will not proceed further with its investigation, and makes no determination about whether further investigation would establish violations of the statute. This does not mean the claims have no merit. This determination does not certify that the respondent is in compliance with the statutes. The EEOC makes no finding as to the merits of any other issues that might be construed as having been raised by this charge.



The EEOC has adopted the findings of the state or local fair employment practices agency that investigated this charge.



Other (briefly state)

**- NOTICE OF SUIT RIGHTS -**

(See the additional information attached to this form.)

**Title VII, the Americans with Disabilities Act, the Genetic Information Nondiscrimination Act, or the Age Discrimination in Employment Act:** This will be the only notice of dismissal and of your right to sue that we will send you. You may file a lawsuit against the respondent(s) under federal law based on this charge in federal or state court. Your lawsuit must be filed WITHIN 90 DAYS of your receipt of this notice, or your right to sue based on this charge will be lost. (The time limit for filing suit based on a claim under state law may be different.)

**Equal Pay Act (EPA):** EPA suits must be filed in federal or state court within 2 years (3 years for willful violations) of the alleged EPA underpayment. This means that backpay due for any violations that occurred more than 2 years (3 years) before you file suit may not be collectible.

On behalf of the Commission

*Alexa Moore*

Digitally signed by Alexa Moore  
 DN: cn=Alexa Moore, o=U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity  
 Commission, email=alexa.moore@eepoc.gov, c=US  
 Date: 2021.09.25 11:04:31 -0400

Enclosures(s)

for: **Michellie Eisele,**  
**District Director**

(Date Issued)

cc: **Kimberly A. Yates**  
**Shareholder**  
**General Motors LLC c/o LITTLER MENDELSON, P.C.**  
**2301 MCGEE ST, STE 800**  
**Kansas City, MO 64108**

The JS 44 civil cover sheet and the information contained hereon neither replace nor supplement the filing and service of pleadings or other papers as required by law, except as provided by local rules of court. This form, approved by the Judicial Conference of the United States in September 1974, is required for the use of the Clerk of Court for the purpose of initiating the civil docket sheet. (SEE INSTRUCTIONS ON NEXT PAGE OF THIS FORM.)

**I. (a) PLAINTIFFS**

Robert E. Bethca

**DEFENDANTS**General Motors Company GM Tech Center  
United Autoworkers Local # 160  
Aramark Services(b) County of Residence of First Listed Plaintiff Macomb  
(EXCEPT IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES)County of Residence of First Listed Defendant Macomb  
(IN U.S. PLAINTIFF CASES ONLY)

NOTE: IN LAND CONDEMNATION CASES, USE THE LOCATION OF THE TRACT OF LAND INVOLVED.

(c) Attorneys (Firm Name, Address, and Telephone Number)

Attorneys (If Known)

**II. BASIS OF JURISDICTION** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☐ 1 U.S. Government Plaintiff
- ☐ 2 U.S. Government Defendant
- ☐ 3 Federal Question  
(U.S. Government Not a Party)
- ☐ 4 Diversity  
(Indicate Citizenship of Parties in Item III)

**III. CITIZENSHIP OF PRINCIPAL PARTIES** (Place an "X" in One Box for Plaintiff, and One Box for Defendant)

- |   | PTF                                   | DEF                        |   | PTF                        | DEF                                   |
|---|---------------------------------------|----------------------------|---|----------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| Citizen of This State                   | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1 | <input type="checkbox"/> 1 | Incorporated or Principal Place of Business in This State     | <input type="checkbox"/> 4 | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 4 |
| Citizen of Another State                | <input type="checkbox"/> 2            | <input type="checkbox"/> 2 | Incorporated and Principal Place of Business in Another State | <input type="checkbox"/> 5 | <input type="checkbox"/> 5            |
| Citizen or Subject of a Foreign Country | <input type="checkbox"/> 3            | <input type="checkbox"/> 3 | Foreign Nation  | <input type="checkbox"/> 6 | <input type="checkbox"/> 6            |

**IV. NATURE OF SUIT** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)Click here for: [Nature of Suit Code Descriptions.](#)

CONTRACT	TORTS	FORFEITURE/PENALTY	BANKRUPTCY	OTHER STATUTES	
<input type="checkbox"/> 110 Insurance <input type="checkbox"/> 120 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 130 Miller Act <input type="checkbox"/> 140 Negotiable Instrument <input type="checkbox"/> 150 Recovery of Overpayment & Enforcement of Judgment <input type="checkbox"/> 151 Medicare Act <input type="checkbox"/> 152 Recovery of Defaulted Student Loans (Excludes Veterans) <input type="checkbox"/> 153 Recovery of Overpayment of Veteran's Benefits <input type="checkbox"/> 160 Stockholders' Suits <input type="checkbox"/> 190 Other Contract <input type="checkbox"/> 195 Contract Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 196 Franchise	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 310 Airplane <input type="checkbox"/> 315 Airplane Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 320 Assault, Libel & Slander <input type="checkbox"/> 330 Federal Employers' Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 340 Marine <input type="checkbox"/> 345 Marine Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 350 Motor Vehicle <input type="checkbox"/> 355 Motor Vehicle Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 360 Other Personal Injury <input type="checkbox"/> 362 Personal Injury - Medical Malpractice	<b>PERSONAL INJURY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 365 Personal Injury - Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 367 Health Care/Pharmaceutical Personal Injury Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 368 Asbestos Personal Injury Product Liability <b>PERSONAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 370 Other Fraud <input type="checkbox"/> 371 Truth in Lending <input type="checkbox"/> 380 Other Personal Property Damage <input type="checkbox"/> 385 Property Damage Product Liability	<input type="checkbox"/> 625 Drug Related Seizure of Property 21 USC 881 <input type="checkbox"/> 690 Other <b>LABOR</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 710 Fair Labor Standards Act <input type="checkbox"/> 720 Labor/Management Relations <input type="checkbox"/> 740 Railway Labor Act <input type="checkbox"/> 751 Family and Medical Leave Act <input type="checkbox"/> 790 Other Labor Litigation <input type="checkbox"/> 791 Employee Retirement Income Security Act <b>IMMIGRATION</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 462 Naturalization Application <input type="checkbox"/> 465 Other Immigration Actions	<input type="checkbox"/> 422 Appeal 28 USC 158 <input type="checkbox"/> 423 Withdrawal 28 USC 157 <b>PROPERTY RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 820 Copyrights <input type="checkbox"/> 830 Patent <input type="checkbox"/> 835 Patent - Abbreviated New Drug Application <input type="checkbox"/> 840 Trademark <input type="checkbox"/> 880 Defend Trade Secrets Act of 2016 <b>SOCIAL SECURITY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 861 HIA (1395ff) <input type="checkbox"/> 862 Black Lung (923) <input type="checkbox"/> 863 DIWC/DIWW (405(g)) <input type="checkbox"/> 864 SSID Title XVI <input type="checkbox"/> 865 RSI (405(g)) <b>FEDERAL TAX SUITS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 870 Taxes (U.S. Plaintiff or Defendant) <input type="checkbox"/> 871 IRS—Third Party 26 USC 7609	<input type="checkbox"/> 375 False Claims Act <input type="checkbox"/> 376 Qui Tam (31 USC 3729(a)) <input type="checkbox"/> 400 State Reapportionment <input type="checkbox"/> 410 Antitrust <input type="checkbox"/> 430 Banks and Banking <input type="checkbox"/> 450 Commerce <input type="checkbox"/> 460 Deportation <input type="checkbox"/> 470 Racketeer Influenced and Corrupt Organizations <input type="checkbox"/> 480 Consumer Credit (15 USC 1681 or 1692) <input type="checkbox"/> 485 Telephone Consumer Protection Act <input type="checkbox"/> 490 Cable/Sat TV <input type="checkbox"/> 850 Securities/Commodities/Exchange <input type="checkbox"/> 890 Other Statutory Actions <input type="checkbox"/> 891 Agricultural Acts <input type="checkbox"/> 893 Environmental Matters <input type="checkbox"/> 895 Freedom of Information Act <input type="checkbox"/> 896 Arbitration <input type="checkbox"/> 899 Administrative Procedure Act/Review or Appeal of Agency Decision <input type="checkbox"/> 950 Constitutionality of State Statutes
<b>REAL PROPERTY</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 210 Land Condemnation <input type="checkbox"/> 220 Foreclosure <input type="checkbox"/> 230 Rent Lease & Ejectment <input type="checkbox"/> 240 Torts to Land <input type="checkbox"/> 245 Tort Product Liability <input type="checkbox"/> 290 All Other Real Property	<b>CIVIL RIGHTS</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 440 Other Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 441 Voting <input type="checkbox"/> 442 Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 443 Housing/Accommodations <input type="checkbox"/> 445 Amer. w/Disabilities - Employment <input type="checkbox"/> 446 Amer. w/Disabilities - Other <input type="checkbox"/> 448 Education	<b>PRISONER PETITIONS</b> <b>Habeas Corpus:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 463 Alien Detainee <input type="checkbox"/> 510 Motions to Vacate Sentence <input type="checkbox"/> 530 General <input type="checkbox"/> 535 Death Penalty <b>Other:</b> <input type="checkbox"/> 540 Mandamus & Other <input type="checkbox"/> 550 Civil Rights <input type="checkbox"/> 555 Prison Condition <input type="checkbox"/> 560 Civil Detainee - Conditions of Confinement			

**V. ORIGIN** (Place an "X" in One Box Only)

- ☒ 1 Original Proceeding
- ☐ 2 Removed from State Court
- ☐ 3 Remanded from Appellate Court
- ☐ 4 Reinstated or Reopened
- ☐ 5 Transferred from Another District (specify)
- ☐ 6 Multidistrict Litigation - Transfer
- ☐ 8 Multidistrict Litigation - Direct File

Cite the U.S. Civil Statute under which you are filing (Do not cite jurisdictional statutes unless diversity):

**VI. CAUSE OF ACTION**

Brief description of cause:

Description Discriminatory Employment**VII. REQUESTED IN COMPLAINT:**☐ CHECK IF THIS IS A CLASS ACTION UNDER RULE 23, F.R.Cv.P.

DEMAND \$ 3,043,206.00

CHECK YES only if demanded in complaint:

JURY DEMAND: ☐ Yes ☐ No**VIII. RELATED CASE(S) IF ANY**

(See instructions):

JUDGE

DOCKET NUMBER

DATE

October 14, 2021

SIGNATURE OF ATTORNEY OF RECORD

**FOR OFFICE USE ONLY**

RECEIPT #

AMOUNT

APPLYING IFP

JUDGE

MAG. JUDGE

1. Is this a case that has been previously dismissed?

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

2. Other than stated above, are there any pending or previously discontinued or dismissed companion cases in this or any other court, including state court? (Companion cases are matters in which it appears substantially similar evidence will be offered or the same or related parties are present and the cases arise out of the same transaction or occurrence.)

☐ Yes

☒ No

If yes, give the following information:

Court: \_\_\_\_\_

Case No.: \_\_\_\_\_

Judge: \_\_\_\_\_

Notes :

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